

## **Advisory Committee on Academic Programs**

### **Minutes of October 13, 2011**

#### **Members Present**

Dr. T. Michael Raley, Chair  
Dr. Joyce Blackwell, S.C. State University  
Dr. Debra Boyd, Winthrop University  
Dr. Richard Chapman Francis Marion University  
Dr. Marsha Dowell, USC Upstate  
Dr. Ron Drayton, Midlands Technical College  
Dr. Gina Mounfield, Technical College of the Lowcountry (via teleconference)  
Dr. Suzanne Ozment, USC Aiken  
Dr. Chris Plyler, USC System  
Dr. Hope Rivers, S.C. Technical College System  
Dr. Carolyn Stewart, York Technical College  
Dr. Harvey Varnet, USC Beaufort

#### **Guests Representing Members**

Dr. John Beard, Coastal Carolina University, representing Dr. Robert Sheehan  
Dr. Mark Bebensee, The Citadel, representing Dr. Sam Hines (via teleconference)  
Dr. Kris Finnigan, USC Columbia, representing Dr. Michael Amiridis  
Dr. Debra Jackson, Clemson, representing Dr. Doris Helms (via teleconference)  
Dr. Rhonda Mack, College of Charleston, representing Dr. George Hynd (via teleconference)  
Dr. Darlene Shaw, MUSC, representing Dr. Mark Sothmann (via teleconference)

#### **Staff Present**

Dr. Argentini Anderson  
Ms. Laura Belcher  
Mr. Arik Bjorn  
Ms. Saundra Carr  
Ms. Julie Carullo  
Dr. Paula Gregg  
Ms. Trena Houpp  
Mr. Rick Moul  
Mr. Clint Mullins

#### **Guests**

Mr. Tim Drueke, Winthrop University  
Ms. Joyce Durant, Francis Marion University, PASCAL  
Ms. Jill Hancock, USC Columbia  
Ms. Amanda Hawkins, USC Columbia  
Ms. Karen Jones, Winthrop University  
Dr. Zach Kelehear, USC  
Dr. Brian Klaas, USC Columbia  
Ms. Christine LaCola, USC  
Ms. Amy Marion, USC Columbia  
Dr. Jim Mensch, USC Columbia  
Dr. Martha Moriarty, USC Beaufort  
Dr. Jeannette M. Myers, Francis Marion University  
Ms. Cooper Padgett, USC Columbia  
Mr. Bryant Parnell, USC Columbia  
Dr. Eric Powers, USC  
Mr. Joshua Pratt, USC Columbia  
Dr. Nur Tanyel, USC Upstate  
Dr. Ruth Wittmann-Price, Francis Marion University

Dr. Mike Raley called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. He welcomed all in attendance and asked the institutional representatives and visitors to introduce themselves. He suggested a change in the order of the agenda, asking the Committee for permission to move the *DegreeSC* Update to the end of the agenda. The Committee agreed.

## **1. Consideration of Minutes of July 14, 2011**

Dr. Raley requested a motion to accept the minutes of July 14, 2011, as distributed. The motion was **moved** (Drayton) and **seconded** (Ozment) and the Committee **voted unanimously to accept the Minutes as presented.**

## **2. Update on PASCAL**

Dr. Raley introduced Ms. Durant, Chair of the PASCAL Board. Ms. Durant greeted the Committee and explained to the Committee that she is employed by Francis Marion University and is serving as the PASCAL Board Chair this year. She thanked Dr. Raley and Mr. Gary Glenn for their support of PASCAL. She continued by thanking the Committee and CHE for their tremendous guidance, legislative advocacy and support in helping to find alternative funding when PASCAL's state budget was cut 90%.

Ms. Durant acknowledged the ongoing problems with the SCEIS accounting system and thanked Mr. Glenn for conducting an internal audit. She informed the Committee that some of the largest PASCAL members have requested an external audit be conducted. She explained that the Board has created a Task Force to examine PASCAL operations, members' goals and best practices. Ms. Durant introduced Mr. Moul to offer more detailed information.

Before Mr. Moul began to speak, Dr. Raley received PASCAL's gratitude for the Commission as given by Ms. Durant. He then acknowledged Julie Carullo as the Governmental Affairs Director who has worked diligently on behalf of PASCAL with the legislature.

Mr. Moul echoed Ms. Durant's words by thanking the Committee for its support in the last few years. He then distributed a Power Point presentation handout. He explained that PASCAL operates two programs which support sufficient library operation and provision of access to information for higher education.

Mr. Moul stated that the first program, originally funded through state funding, involves the provision of what was a very robust core set of electronic resources, including 20 databases centered on two major products and vendors. He informed the Committee that second program entitled PASCAL Delivers is a rapid book delivery service built around a shared catalog. Mr. Moul added that PASCAL also works on an Opt-In Programming service, through which PASCAL hosts the library systems for 13 institutions of higher education and provides central licensing for additional databases.

Mr. Moul stated that PASCAL's value derives from the large savings of the central licensing element which also allows PASCAL to support collaboration. He referenced specific savings as found on the handout. He stated that the costs of PASCAL currently are stable but that costs to PASCAL's participating libraries have increased due to the absence of subsidies from carry-over money and the technical college system.

Mr. Drayton asked whether the payments will continue to increase. Mr. Moul answered that if the program remains stable, the payments will stay relatively neutral.

Mr. Moul referenced the administrative history of PASCAL located on page three of the handout and explained the reasoning behind the Board's request of an external audit.

### **3. Consideration of Program Planning Summaries**

#### **a. B.A., Child Development and Family Studies, University of South Carolina Upstate**

Dr. Dowell introduced the planning summary from the University of South Carolina Upstate. It was **moved** (Dowell) and **seconded** (Chapman). Dr. Dowell explained that the program is 120 credit hours and has a concentration entitled Birth to Six Years. She informed the Committee that the purpose of the program is to prepare students for professional work with young children or families from diverse cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. She stated that graduates will have employment opportunities in a variety of settings including private schools, child development centers, family learning centers, and Early Head Start programs. Dr. Dowell introduced Dr. Nur Tanyel with the School of Education, who commented how crucial it is to focus on age groups in training students to care for young children because of critical language, cognitive and physical development.

Dr. Raley asked how students in similar programs at Columbia College and Benedict College have fared in regards to gainful employment upon graduation. Dr. Tanyel answered that graduates are in demand for Head Start programs and that if approved, the proposed program at USC Upstate will be the lone program in the Upstate.

Dr. Varnet from USC Beaufort and Dr. Blackwell from SCSU both stated that graduates in their programs do not struggle with finding employment.

Dr. Raley suggested that Dr. Dowell include all similar programs in the full program proposal. Dr. Dowell agreed.

Dr. Raley asked about a graduate's debt load, recognizing the early childhood employment industry's lower salaries. Dr. Tanyel answered that the best option for these students are teaching scholarships. Dr. Stewart commented that York Technical College has an Associate's Degree and that her understanding from its child wellness center's accrediting agency that by 2020 a certain percentage of teachers in a child wellness center must have a Bachelor's degree. She also commented that York is able to provide tuition reimbursement for its Center's teachers. Dr. Tanyel stated that Early Head Start has a standard that by 2012 each Head Start program must have one Bachelor's degree teacher in each classroom.

Dr. Rivers referenced seamless articulation and transfer of general education courses with the technical colleges as mentioned in the planning summary. She then asked whether USC Upstate would be willing to move towards a "2+2" structure where more than general education courses would transfer. Dr. Dowell stated that institutions in the Upstate, including USC Upstate, use a program entitled Upstate Direct Connect to aid the seamless transition.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the planning summary for the University of South Carolina Upstate to develop a new program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development and Family Studies, to be implemented in Fall 2012.

### **b. B.A., Individualized Studies, Winthrop University**

Dr. Boyd introduced the planning summary from Winthrop University. It was **moved** (Boyd) and **seconded** (Finnigan). Dr. Boyd explained that the program is innovative and targeted toward students who are highly motivated and who know early in their college career their career and college goals. She stated that the program is 124 credit hour multi-disciplinary highly-rigorous degree program. She informed the Committee that the University does not expect significant additional costs for the program and that the program is meant for a small number of students.

Dr. Varnet asked why the program is 124 credit hours. Dr. Boyd answered that 124 credit hours is the standard for Winthrop. She also commented that the University anticipates three to four areas of integration in the program which will require the additional hours. Dr. Beard asked whether the University will conduct any type of screening or special pre-requisite for entering the program. Dr. Boyd answered that Winthrop seeks initially to tie it to the Honors program.

Dr. Chapman expressed his support for the program and then asked whether Winthrop anticipates a problem with the program's productivity considering its low number of expected students. Dr. Raley commented that staff also had concerns that the program will not meet the productivity standards. He stated that staff will be challenged to approve a degree program which anticipates from the beginning a student participation which will not meet standards. He encouraged Winthrop to analyze the anticipated number of students prior to submitting a full program proposal. Dr. Boyd thanked the Committee for its input and stated that Winthrop is being initially conservative.

Dr. Plyler commented that when USC regional campuses began their Liberal Studies degree, the University System planned for a conservative number of students but was surprised when the student numbers grew much larger.

Dr. Raley informed the Committee that the two of the five Individualized Studies degrees offered in the state are on probation for low enrollment.

Mr. Mullins asked Dr. Boyd for clarification on the following phrase located on page three of the planning summary: "to apply the concepts of their individual major in research projects, internships, service learning, and study abroad." Dr. Boyd stated that the word individual in the phrase should be replaced by the word individualized.

Mr. Mullins asked Dr. Boyd about the newly formed Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. Dr. Boyd stated that the department will provide support for interdisciplinary studies and will potentially house this proposed degree program.

Mr. Mullins asked whether the Department houses other programs. Dr. Boyd answered that it includes Environmental Studies, Environmental Sciences, and the Master of Liberal Arts program.

Ms. Karen Jones referenced discussions regarding exceptions when the Program Productivity standards were being created. She asked whether it would be possible to discuss this topic again. Dr. Raley answered affirmatively.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the planning summary for Winthrop University to develop a new program leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Individualized Studies, to be implemented in Fall 2013.

### **c. A.M.B.A., University of South Carolina Columbia**

Dr. Finnigan introduced the planning summary from the University of South Carolina Columbia. It was **moved** (Finnigan) and **seconded** (Drayton). Dr. Finnigan explained that the program emerged as an outcome of a re-evaluation of the International Master of Business Administration (IMBA) which currently has two tracks: Language and Global. She informed the Committee that the University faces rapidly changing markets for this type of degree and it was decided that the Global track be phased out and captured by this new program. She stated that the University will target a variety of audiences of students: those with work experience, those interested in pursuing a dual degree and international students searching for an expedited program. Dr. Finnigan then introduced Dr. Brian Klaas, Ms. Christine LaCola, and Dr. Eric Powers.

Dr. Finnigan informed the Committee that concerns were presented to the University by the College of Charleston and The Citadel. Dr. Raley then gave a history of the creation of the College of Charleston's own accelerated MBA program. He stated that the College of Charleston and The Citadel went through a long process with each other and with the Commission to reach approval. He explained that CHE staff held the College to a very high standard and delayed approval of its proposed program for several years due to concerns about duplication and competition. Dr. Raley continued by stating that a plan as outlined in an official Memorandum of Understanding was created so that the Citadel's and the College's programs would remain unique and not be in direct competition with each other. He then asked Dr. Finnigan whether USC seeks to offer the program in Charleston.

Dr. Klaas commented that the University's program will be unique by the types of students it will target. He explained that the University does not seek to compete with the programs in Charleston. He informed the Committee that the University has Viewing Sites used for distance education across the state for its professional MBA, including a site in downtown Charleston.

Dr. Mack expressed the College's concerns that the University might not be held to the same rigorous standards as the College was. She stated that the College thinks the University's proposed program is in competition with the College's one, especially since a Moore School presence in Charleston is only two blocks away from the College. She then asked Dr. Klaas and Dr. Finnigan whether the proposed program be offered at this Charleston site.

Dr. Raley asked Dr. Mack for suggestions in resolving these concerns. Dr. Mack then suggested that the Business Deans and Provosts of the institutions meet and work out a plan as to restrictions to the proposed program. She referenced that the College is held to being a full-time, daytime program and referenced that accelerated programs as well as full programs have decreased in number in the last year.

Dr. Klaas stated the University perceives a distinction between the situation between The Citadel and the College of Charleston and the present situation of the University's proposed program. He referenced one difference being that The Citadel and the College have their main campuses in the same city. He reiterated that the University seeks a different population of students than the programs at The Citadel and the College, including an international audience.

Dr. Finnigan informed the Committee that the differences will be clearly outlined in the full program proposal. Dr. Raley agreed and strongly encouraged continued discussion and conversations among the three business deans. He then encouraged the Committee to approve the planning summary contingent on the business deans of the three institutions meeting.

Dr. Varnet asked whether there was a strong precedent of approving summaries conditionally. Dr. Raley answered that this type of situation is very rare.

Dr. Bebensee from The Citadel asked Dr. Klaas whether the University's proposed program is intended to be a residential one or one which includes a distance educational component. Dr. Klaas answered that the University's intent is for a residential program. Dr. Mack asked that this aspect be included in the full program proposal, and Dr. Finnigan agreed.

Dr. Finnigan amended the motion to include a caveat that the summary moving forward is conditional upon the meeting of the business deans of USC Columbia, the College of Charleston and The Citadel. Mr. Drayton seconded the motion.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the planning summary for the University of South Carolina Columbia to develop a new program leading to the Accelerated Master of Business Administration degree, to be implemented in Summer 2013, with the caveat that the business deans of USC Columbia, the College of Charleston and The Citadel meet to discuss the proposed program.

#### **d. M.S., Athletic Training, University of South Carolina Columbia**

Dr. Finnigan introduced the planning summary from the University of South Carolina Columbia. It was **moved** (Finnigan) and **seconded** (Boyd). Dr. Finnigan explained that the proposed program will take the place of a current concentration. She informed the Committee that the M.S. in Physical Education will be terminated. She introduced Dr. Zach Kelehear and Dr. Jim Mensch.

Dr. Raley asked that a statement regarding the termination of the M.S. in Physical Education be included in the full program proposal. Dr. Finnigan agreed.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the planning summary for the University of South Carolina Columbia to develop a new program leading to the Master of Science in Athletic Training, to be implemented in Fall 2012.

#### **e. M.S.N., Nurse Educator, Francis Marion University**

Dr. Chapman introduced the planning summary from Francis Marion University. It was **moved** (Chapman) and **seconded** (Rivers). Dr. Chapman described the program as a 36 credit hour program which will prepare students who are interested in nursing education. He introduced staff members Dr. Ruth Wittman-Price and Dr. Jeannette Myers.

Dr. Wittman-Price informed the Committee that the proposed program is needed in the local area and that the University struggles to find M.S.N.-prepared nursing faculty.

Dr. Beard asked whether students would conduct their practicums in the local service area. Dr. Wittman-Price stated that it is a hybrid program and that most of the practicums will be conducted in the Pee Dee area.

Dr. Shaw stated that MUSC does not oppose the program. She asked, however, whether the Clemson program is full. Dr. Jackson answered that Clemson has not experienced any issues with enrollment nor graduation in that program. She stated that if the Committee is concerned about duplication, then she suggests pursuing collaboration between institutions which offer the program.

Dr. Raley asked Dr. Wittman-Price whether Francis Marion has pursued collaboration with MUSC or Clemson. Dr. Wittman-Price answered no, but that Francis Marion will pursue conversation regarding it.

Dr. Shaw commented that the field seems to be moving more towards a doctorate of Nursing Practice and away from the M.S.N. She described her concern about the longevity of the program. Dr. Wittman-Price answered that the program will meet current needs. She informed the Committee that the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) has not made a recommendation to FMU to move towards the doctorate program. Dr. Chapman referenced FMU's existing Pee Dee Health Education Partnership with USC, which might allow room in the future if the field moves towards recommending doctorate degrees.

Dr. Dowell commented that in 1960, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) indicated that all nurses would hold baccalaureate degrees. She stated that specific statistic is still unfulfilled and that it will never be fulfilled. She then expressed that she had no problem with supporting the M.S.N. degree in relation to a doctorate degree.

Dr. Raley suggested that FMU update its need data when completing the full program proposal. Ms. Houp suggested that FMU provide state-level data in addition to national data. Dr. Raley informed the Committee that FMU's mission statement does not include nursing in its list of graduate degrees. He suggested that the mission statement be revised prior to the submission of the full program proposal. Dr. Chapman agreed.

Dr. Raley informed the Committee that CHE staff will perform an informal audit of mission statements to insure that the statements correctly reflect the institution's inventory of programs. He further explained that dependent on the type of change, a revised mission statement might be approved at staff level or it might be sent to the Commission for approval.

Dr. Raley asked Dr. Chapman about a reference in the summary to the program being partly funded by the M.S. N. in Family Nurse Practitioner program. He specifically asked whether the summary was referring to a recent request by FMU's President to the legislature for a special recurring appropriation of \$750,000 for the M.S.N. in Family Nurse Practitioner. Dr. Chapman answered that FMU has made that request for the past several years, but in the present economic climate does not anticipate it being provided. He continued by stating the University has identified private funding to support the two M.S.N. programs. Dr. Raley asked that the private funds be specifically explained in the full program proposal. Dr. Chapman agreed.

The Committee **voted unanimously to accept** the planning summary for Francis Marion University to develop a new program leading to the Master of Science in Nursing, Nurse Educator, to be implemented in January 2013.

#### **4. Update on *DegreeSC***

Ms. Houpp distributed a handout regarding the *DegreeSC* program and informed the Committee of the background of and need for the program. She referenced the success and growth of a similar degree-completion program in Tennessee. She described the *DegreeSC* collaborative, highlighting that the program will target adults with some college credit. She explained that the student would earn a degree from a specific S.C. public institution and discussed the differences between a home and a teaching institution.

Ms. Houpp stated that the handout provided a list of the *DegreeSC* Task Force members and that the Task Force has made much progress in creating the collaborative in the last two years. She referenced the mission, values, and core principles which the Task Force has approved and adopted for the program. She stated that the Task Force has also approved the following: minimum admission requirements, a common general education curriculum, the initial program's (Criminal Justice) curriculum, an academic forgiveness policy, course forgiveness policy, and set rates for tuition and fees. Ms. Houpp reported that the distributed handout includes a Proposed Administration document which will be refined over time by the Task Force; the Minimum Admission Requirements; the approved General Education and Criminal Justice curricula; Academic and Course Forgiveness Policies; and the rationale for the approved tuition and fees.

Ms. Houpp informed the Committee that the prospective degree programs being developed for *DegreeSC* include: baccalaureate programs in Criminal Justice, Organizational Leadership, Health Information Management, and American Studies, and a Master of Arts in Teaching. Ms. Houpp reported that the Task Force decided to pursue Criminal Justice as the initial degree offering for *DegreeSC* and a Criminal Justice Group has met and developed the curriculum for the degree. She explained that Lander University and S.C. State University will serve as home institutions for the Criminal Justice degree and will thus confer the degree. She stated that additional institutions will participate in the program by teaching some of the courses and thus serving as teaching institutions.

Ms. Houpp explained that an Infrastructure Committee has also been formed and is charged with helping determine the various roles and responsibilities of the home institutions, teaching institutions, and CHE as well as determining how best to implement the program.

Dr. Rivers commented that before institutions can make firm commitments about what they can contribute, decisions regarding funding and costs have to be made and clarified. Ms. Houpp agreed and stated that in the coming meetings of the *DegreeSC* Task Force, specific costs and funding needs will be addressed.

Dr. Dowell asked about access to *DegreeSC* for handicapped students, particularly those with hearing and sight impairments. Dr. Raley answered that the Task Force has discussed the issue but has not reached a conclusion about how to address that need. Dr. Dowell suggested that the issue be handled quickly. Dr. Raley then requested suggestions for a solution for this issue from the Committee. Ms. Houpp echoed the request and asked that any suggestions be submitted to her.



Dr. Stewart asked about *DegreeSC* and financial aid. She specifically asked whether the collaborative has to move through a specific Department of Education approval process. Ms. Houp answered that when the Financial Aid officers met to discuss the issue, they determined that the home institution would handle the financial aid as an extension of the normal financial aid process.

## **5. Other**

Dr. Dr. Raley thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded them of the 1:00 p.m. Expanded ACAP meeting following a short lunch break. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.